

ABSTRACTS

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THE SLUMS OF SAINT PETERSBURG BY VSEVOLOD KRESTOVSKY AND NOVELS BY EUGÈNE SUE AND ALEXANDRE DUMAS

The article concerns the phenomenon of literary transfer between France and Russia, genre and plot parallels in popular French novels «Parisian Mysteries» by Eugene Sue and «The Count of Monte Cristo» by Alexandre Dumas and the Russian novel «The Slums of Saint Petersburg» by Vsevolod Krestovsky. The special attention is given to their endings, their form and function.

The end of the popular novel is not necessary happy and optimistic, it is often banal and trivial. Trite optimism equals to trite pessimism. That is why the dénouement in popular novels, in my opinion, always has a hackneyed moral idea which is ultimately ambivalent, as it contains both points of view, being unofficial, non-conservative or non-progressive. All the people are evil, but, at the same time, they are of good nature; the fate of each one is unhappy, but in the end every one finds his happiness, the good and justice always win but not virtuous people. In other words, within the anthropological aspect and the aspect of knowledge about human society in the popular novel a philistine reader always finds the justification of his moral ideas, even if these ideas are controversial and lack logic. This, in my opinion, is the most crucial criterion for identifying whether this or that work belongs to mass literature.